

3 MORE UNION MEN HELD ON CHARGES OF 'DOPEY BENNY'

Secretary of Organization and
Two Others Are Sent to
Tombs, Accused of Murder.

CRIME TRUST EXPOSED.

Confession of Benjamin Fein,
Their Leader, Spreads Terror
Among East Side Gangsters.

Three of the men accused of murder by "Dopey Benny" Fein, in his confession to the District Attorney, were surrendered in court today. Abraham Levy, who has been retained to defend all the union labor men implicated in Benny's revelation of gang work on the east side, led them before

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East Side Gang Leader Who Bares Commercialized Crime



DOPEY BENNY.

Judge Wadhams, in Part I of General Sessions.

The men are Morris Sigman, Secretary of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Morris Struppler and Saul Metz. They are indicted on a charge of beating Herman Liebowitz to death with an iron bar, on the night of Jan. 31, 1910.

"I understand," said Mr. Levy, "that five other men are indicted for participation in this crime. If the District Attorney will give their names I will bring them here forthwith. I ask your Honor to let these three go at large on their old bail. They were indicted more than a year ago on very meagre evidence, but nothing was done to bring them to trial. Sigman is still under \$15,000 bond and the other two under \$10,000 each. They represent labor unions that include more than 250,000 members. They will abundantly prove their innocence."

Assistant District Attorney DeLanty opposed the motion.

"We have recently obtained much more and stronger evidence," he said. "The indictments obtained a year and a half ago have been superseded by new indictments."

Liebowitz was a member of the

union. He went out on strike, but because he had a wife and children, he took another job at Fulton, N. Y. When the union men heard of it, they lured him to New York and into the office of the union in Fourth Street and beat him to death.

Judge Wadhams committed the three to the Tombs and said he would hear argument later as to bail.

"While Mr. Levy is attorney for the Union," Mr. Levy explained later, "I have been retained to act as counsel for all the union men brought here on these so-called revelations. I shall not defend any gangster. The unions do not recognize any gangsters, and they have had nothing to do with them."

"Dopey Benny has squealed."

The message carried by those four words has made a bigger stir in New York than anything else that has been heard in years. It means that Benjamin Fein, who has been, ever since Jack Zelig was shot, the leader in the horse-poisoning, man-beating and murder business, has turned State's evidence; that he is telling the police and the District Attorney the secrets of the Murder Trust, and that he is betraying his fellow gangsters as fast as he can remember the details of the crimes they have committed with his aid.

Six men were arrested on Tuesday and as many more yesterday, on warrants for murder or assault or extortion. They were all held in such heavy bail that they could not raise it at once; so they were taken to the Tombs as fast as they were arraigned. And District Attorney Perkins said this morning that the arrests are only beginning. The number may exceed one hundred before long.

Benny is betraying his former employers now because they have refused to help him out of trouble. He is under heavy bail for an alleged attempt to extort \$500 from Benjamin Salomonovitz, organizer of a butchers' union, for the rough work Benny did in "settling" a strike for him. He is also awaiting trial on an indictment for assaulting a police sergeant.

GANGSTERS HAD FIXED SCALE OF PRICES.

"The men who hired me to do their work," says Benny, "want to keep me

in prison because they think I know too much. Well, I will show them I know too much."

As a result of the confession Benny has been making almost daily for the last six weeks, Mr. Perkins has a remarkably full history of the underworld on the east side. The things which Benny told the judge of Jack Zelig, who was assassinated by one of his own men, Amos, and murder were done for pay, arranged on a regular schedule.

It cost \$100 to have a small man, "acting part of a shirtwaist maker," to work one of the big shops in the clothing trade east of the river. The man was to be shot by shooting a man in the leg or "slipping his ear off" the price ran from \$10 to \$20, according to the importance of the victim. To raid a factory and throw an offensive force man down an elevator shaft, or to break an arm or a thumb, cost \$500. When it was necessary to beat up sewing machine girls Benny provided "talent" who executed, quiet hair, stabbed with batons or hit the girls with loaded umbrellas.

Mr. Perkins says Benny had a queer code. His first went into the business of being out his gangsters to help labor organizations that were on strike, therefore, when he began to be known as a boss of slugs, he received offers from employers, who asked him to do violence for them.

"But I wouldn't do it," says Benny. "I wouldn't help the working men. And I wouldn't tell on them now, only they went back on me."

As a matter of fact, Mr. Perkins says, most of the events of the underworld are due to Miss Lillian Wald, a settlement worker, who found out all about the oppression and extortion of the east side gangs and the labor movement. To him, incidentally, in price of \$5,000 was put on the head of Max Salomon, a detective, who organized a garment makers' union in order to investigate the workings of the gang system. As soon as the District Attorney began to investigate the gunmen who were following Salomon.

"DOPEY BENNY'S" CONFESSION REVEALS HIS WHOLE CAREER.

"Dopey Benny's" confession would fill a big book. He tells how he succeeded "Munk" Eastman and Jack Zelig and "Joe the Farmer" and began to take contracts to settle strikes. Here are some of the things he reveals:

"I did a job in Brooklyn smashing up a factory, and somebody smashed my nose with an inkwell. I got \$150 for doing the job and \$30 to pay for having my nose fixed up. In January, 1914, I was convicted of assault and got five years in State prison, but good lawyers were hired for me and the decision was reversed in the higher courts and I got out. All the time I spent in prison I was kept on the payroll at \$25 a week.

I went back to Brooklyn under orders to do the best job I ever had done—to smash everything in the place and beat everybody up. I watched my men go inside, and then I went to a street stand and bought a package of cigarettes and heard an awful din and saw people jumping out of the windows and screaming on the fire escapes.

"I just kept on smoking a cigarette as the people ran by me, revolver shots from my men popping out to keep them on the run. I went to a corner drug store and telephoned my employer and I got out. The time I spent in prison I was kept on the payroll at \$25 a week.

TELLS HOW HE THREW WOMAN INTO CELLAR.

"I got a job to do up a forecandy in an underwear shop. My employer said to me: 'The forecandy in that shop knows the boss too well. He tells her everything. She has to get a good thing, and the best thing is to do to do is to get somebody to throw her down cellar. I am going to give you a girl to point her out to you. I didn't want to do the job as I didn't want to throw a woman down cellar. I pictured my own sister in that position. He said, 'You will never get any more work if you don't do it and he kept pestering me. I consented. We followed the woman till she was passing a saloon with an open cellar door. We threw her down the open cellar door and got away. She screamed and away a lot of people came who took her to a drug store. I got \$50 for that job."

"In the fall of 1912, I got in a fight, and being set upon by a lot of men I was trying to do up, one of them stabbed me in the stomach. They rushed me to St. Mark's Hospital, and I had some operation performed on my intestines, which laid me up for nine or ten days and cost \$150. I got \$100 in connection with this job, so I was out \$50 besides the time I lost."

"Another time we were doing a job in a place where there were some girls who blew police whistles, and policemen came and could not get away. I was caught and got thirty days and three of the other fellows got fifteen days apiece. All the time I was serving my thirty days I was making \$15 a day, which I was getting then for doing these jobs, kept on just the same, though some of it wasn't paid until later."

"Thirty-four men have been indicted, thus far, on Benny's confession, and nearly a dozen have been arrested. Former Alderman Max Levin, counsel for the International Ladies' Garment Workers, asked District Attorney Perkins, to-day, for a list of the indicted men, saying he would bring them to the District Attorney's Office at once, but Mr. Perkins refused the offer, and the detectives went out to make more arrests."

Assistant District Attorney Brockbridge says a defence fund of \$125,000 has been pledged by some of the east side unions to defend the men Benny accuses.

Abraham Cuban, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, declares the employers of labor on the east side also are in the habit of hiring gangsters to break up his strikes, and says he is astonished that the District Attorney cannot find proof of this.

"Dopey Benny" first came into notoriety in the summer of 1905. There was a celebration on the roof of Public School No. 20, at Eldridge and Rivington Streets. Twenty teachers from other schools attended the exercises and saw the dear children go through a lot of drills and dances and uplifting games. And while they were watching half a dozen wicked kids among them "went through" the visitors' bags and purses that dangled from their wrists and neatly picked all the money out of them.

The police got three of the boys who were gorging themselves on soda water and candy and cigarettes. Under pressure they confessed that they belonged to "Dopey Benny's" gang. They said he used to drill them in Fagin fashion, by dangling a bag from his wrist and pronouncing after dark in the hallways of that very school. The boy who could rob the bag without jarring Benny got a quarter. The others got nickels. They soon became skilful.

BECOMES A HERO AFTER SERVING TIME.

This little misadventure cost Benny

fourteen months in the House of Refuge, on Rikers Island. When he came down to New York City, he was a "regular guy" and "Dopey Benny" was his name.

Benny's coming was sharpened by the fact that he saw that many manual workers were being treated badly by a gangster. He learned to try to make sure that he would never be treated like that. He was a "regular guy" and "Dopey Benny" was his name.

Local historians remember that Jack Zelig was assassinated by Phil Davidson, a "hooker," who rode behind Benny in a open car for a while before he could summon enough nerve to get a gun to the back of his head and blow him out of life. After that there was a scattering of Zelig's gang. Most of them joined the forces of "Dopey Benny." He had no nerve, but he was a good provider. None of his bunch ever had to go hungry. Some of them followed Benny with "Molotov's Strong," but his strength was all in the hands, not in the head, and even his followers struggled over to Benny. He took good care of them.

Headquarters detectives say that the real and powerful leader, the power behind Benny's throne, was a man in a blue suit, who let Benny enjoy the fame, but took most of the profits for his own. Benny Benny has been to be expected that he has made \$10,000 a year. This is probably loose talk. He looks and dresses like a man with not more than \$2,000 a year. "Waxy" on the other hand, looks prosperous, even affluent. But the police have not got him yet, so his name is being kept out of the case.

Benny offered a confession of offenses but seldom punished. His system of buying or securing men into silence made it difficult to get evidence against him. Nevertheless, he has been arrested scores of times. He has been discharged in court six times and once by the Governor. He has been sent to the Workhouse twice, to Kimsa Reformatory once and to Sing Sing once.

PIMLICO ENTRIES.

RAVE TRACK, PIMLICO, Md., May 12.—The entries for to-morrow's race are as follows:

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